STATE OF NEW YORK

5535

2023-2024 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

March 16, 2023

Introduced by M. of A. K. BROWN -- read once and referred to the Committee on Education

AN ACT establishing the Northport high school peer mentoring pilot program; and providing for the repeal of such provisions upon expiration thereof

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

Section 1. The Northport-East Northport union free school district is authorized and directed to establish a Northport high school peer mentoring pilot program. Such pilot program shall include, but not be limited to:

1. prior to the 2023-2024 school year:

(a) a review of Northport High School's existing mentoring program model;

(b) the collection of resources and the solicitation of recommendations to strengthen a peer mentoring model and ensure the best outcomes for both the mentors and mentees utilizing evidence-based research;

(c) the collection of resources and the solicitation of recommendations around elements of effective practice in mentoring, including, but not limited to, recruitment, screening, training, matching and initiating, monitoring and support, and closure;

(d) a review of best and emerging practices to recruit and onboard both mentors, mentees and stakeholders throughout the community;

(e) the development of an articulated recruitment and support outreach plan;

(f) the implementation of a mentor screening tool;

(g) the creation of communication tools and marketing collateral to support recruitment and communication efforts, including, but not limited to:

(i) position description;

(ii) promotional materials;

EXPLANATION--Matter in *italics* (underscored) is new; matter in brackets [-] is old law to be omitted.

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(iii) letter to families; and
(iv) information for faculty;
(h) the design and facilitation of onboarding training for mentors, mentees, and all coordinators and liaisons; and
(i) a determination and implementation of the best pre-and-post-approach in evaluating the efficacy and impact of the program on mentors and mentees;
2. during the 2023-2024 school year:
(a) the implementation of a peer mentoring program;
(b) a 2-hour virtual training for all school staff to infuse mentor-like characteristics employ tactics to impact students positively;
(c) the creation of a team of trainers that can help quickly onboard future mentors as needed;
(d) a recorded training for mentors and volunteers to access at their convenience;
(e) the use of the search institutes developmental relationships framework to reinforce existing strengths in the school's relationship-centered culture, and encourage reflection in potential growth areas;
(f) the providing of continuous support and training including, but not limited to:
(i) enrichment training in specific content areas including, but not limited to:
(A) improving listening skills;
(B) identifying youth sparks;
(C) discovering our boundaries;
(D) personal assumptions and biases;
(E) helping youth work through challenges; and
(F) addressing challenging behaviors;
(ii) peer-sharing roundtables; and
(iii) additional resources for crucial practices to enhance and strengthen mentoring relationships; and
(g) a virtual relationship mapping exercise which creates an intentional plan to ensure that all students graduate with a meaningful adult-youth relationship; and
3. following the 2023-2024 school year:
(a) an assessment of the pilot program which includes recommendations for improvement;
(b) the promotion of the pilot program to state-wide partners;
(c) the advocation for funding to continue the pilot program beyond the 2023-2024 school year; and
(d) the creation of a report on the Northport high school peer mentoring pilot program which shall be submitted to the governor, the temporary president of the senate, the speaker of the assembly, the minority leader of the senate, and the minority leader of the assembly no later than August 31, 2024.
§ 2. This act shall take effect immediately and shall expire and be deemed repealed January 1, 2025.